



On the Plains...
Renaissance Voices CONDUCTOR, DEREK MORPHY

SUNDAY, MAY 23RD, THE CONCERT ROOM, THE HOTEL FORT GARRY

On the plains, Fairy trains

Thomas Weelkes

On the plains, Fairy trains were atreading measures,
Satyrs played, Fairies stayed, at the stops set leisures.
Fa la la...
Nymphs begin to come in quickly thick and threefold,
Now they dance, now they prance, present there to behold.
Fa la la...

What is our life?

Orlando Gibbons; text by Sir Walter Raleigh

What is our life? a play of passion;
Our mirth the music of division.
Our mothers' wombs the [at]tiring houses be
Where we are dressed for this short comedy.
Heaven the judicious sharp spectator is,
That sits and marks still who doth act amiss.
Our graves that hide us from the searching sun
Are like drawn curtains when the day is done.
Thus march we playing to our latest rest,
Only we die in earnest, that's no jest.

Music, when soft voices die

C.H.H. Parry; text by Percy Bysshe Shelley

Music, when soft voices die,
Vibrates in the memory.
Odours, when sweet violets sicken,
Live within the sense they quicken.
Rose leaves, when the rose is dead,
Are heaped for the beloved's bed;
And so thy thoughts, when thou art gone,
Love itself shall slumber on.



My delight and thy delight

C.H.H. Parry; text by Robert Bridges

My delight and thy delight walking like two angels white,
In the gardens of the night.
My desire and thy desire twining to a tongue of fire,
Leaping live, and laughing higher,
Through the everlasting strife, in the mystery of life.
Love, from whom the world begun, hath the secret of the sun.
Love can tell, and love alone,
Whence the million stars were strown,
Why each atom knows its own,
How in spite of woe and death, gay is life and sweet is breath.
This he taught us, this we knew, happy in his science true,
Hand to hand as we stood, beneath the shadows of the wood,
Heart to heart as we lay in the dawning of the day.

Aftonen (Evening)

Hugo Alfvén (translation by Norman Luboff)

*Skogen står tyst, himlen är klar.
Hör, huru tusande vallhornet lullar.
Kvällsolens bloss sänker sig ner,
Ner i den lugna, den klara, klara våg.
Ibland dällder, gröna kullar
Mångdubbelt eko kring nejden far...*

Still, still the woods, radiant, the heavens,
Dim, distant horns fill the air with their echo.
Sunset, aglow, soon disappears beneath the sea.
Slowly, so slowly, it disappears beneath the sea.
Through the mountains, through the valleys,
Lingering, the echoes sound...

Everyone suddenly burst out singing

C.S. Lang

Everyone suddenly burst out singing;
And I was filled with such delight
As prisoned birds must find in freedom,
Winging wildly across the white orchard
And dark green fields;
On, winging wildly on, and out of sight.
Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted,
And beauty came like the setting sun.
My heart was shaken with tears,
And horror drifted away;
O, but everyone was a bird;
And the song was wordless;
The singing will never be done.



Renaissance Voices

conducted by Derek Morphy

Sopranos

Maureen Ferley
Louise Friesen
Mary Lynn Hepple
Wanda Nicol
Céline Ross
Tristin Tergeson
Karen Tole Henderson

Altos

Miriam Baron
Edna Dahl
Charlene Diehl
Martha Graham
Barbara Hicks

Tenors

Peter Dueck
Ted Dueck
Kyle Friesen
Dan Peasgood*
David Peters
Craig Schapansky
* Alto in Weelkes and Gibbons

Basses

John Brubacher
Rudy Dahl
John Dobson
Wes Elias
Mike Schroeder
Hubert
Ted Wiens

Renaissance Voices, conducted by Derek Morphy, is a chamber choir formed in 1995 to perform music of the 16th and early 17th centuries. While this period is still a primary focus, the ensemble now has extended its repertoire range into many other choral genres.

As well as performing at Podium 2004, the choir's spring engagements have included both the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's production of *Carmina Burana* and the Manitoba Opera's production of *Cavalleria Rusticana*.

As a choir, Renaissance Voices recovers the underlying meaning of amateur performance: we share a deep love for music and for the particular challenges and gifts of choral ensemble work.